

## TO TEST RIGHT OF DR. MORTON TO PRACTISE

Medical Society Holds Law  
Offsets Object Intended in  
President's Pardon.

## HOPES TO SOLVE PROBLEM FAVORABLY

Will Ask Courts to Restore  
Physician to His Former  
Position as Last Resort.

## MEDICAL ACT GOVERNS

Any Attempt to Tamper with the  
State Statute, It Is Said, Will  
Meet Strenuous Opposition.

The Medical Society of the County of New York is confronted with the disagreeable duty of opposing the right of Dr. William J. Morton to practise medicine in this state.

Dr. Morton, who served a term in the federal prison at Atlanta after a conviction for misuse of the mails in connection with mining frauds, was on December 10 pardoned by President Wilson for the express purpose of restoring the aged physician's right to practise his profession.

The words "that he may resume his practice of medicine" were written in the pardon. It is contended that the medical law of this state is so rigid in its provisions that it automatically defeats the object intended by the President's pardon. Section 2 of the medical law provides:

"Nor shall any person practise under this act who has ever been convicted of a felony by any court, or whose authority to practise is suspended or revoked by the Regents on recommendation of the state board. The conviction of a felony shall include the conviction of any offence which, of committed within the State of New York, would constitute a felony under the laws thereof."

Board of Censors to Act.

The matter is now under consideration by the County Medical Society, and is expected to be determined at the next meeting of the Board of Censors. It is a matter of regret to most of the members of the society who are interested in Dr. Morton's unfortunate position and would be glad to see him regain his right to practise.

It is said that one or two of the more prominent officers of the society are working in the hope of a solution of the problem that will result favorably to Dr. Morton.

Dr. Morton realizes the disability, and his attorney, Joseph H. Choate, Jr., has been in frequent consultation with the officers of the society since the pardon was granted. It is understood that an effort is being made to find some way out of the difficulty without asking the courts to restore Dr. Morton to his former position.

It is understood, however, that the society feels that the only way in which the question can be decided is some action in the courts, and it has been suggested that a test case might be arranged by the attorneys for Dr. Morton and the counsel to the medical society.

A pardon by the President has never been a feature in an application for the restoration of a physician convicted of a felony. There are two cases in the state courts where a pardon was granted by Governor Dix, but both these men lost, the contention of the County Medical Society that a pardon while restoring the rights of citizenship did not include the right to practise medicine being sustained.

May Amend Medical Law.

It was intimated yesterday that an effort might be made to amend the state medical law so as to remove the disability. The law is said to be one that was not intended to operate as harshly as in Dr. Morton's case.

Dr. John Van Doren Young, secretary of the County Medical Society, said that any effort to tamper with the present law would meet with strenuous opposition on the part of the profession, and he hoped that Dr. Morton, for whom every one in the profession had the best wishes, would find that the question could be solved in some way that would still leave the law as it is.

PLAYS SANTA CLAUS AT 97

Russell Judd, Yale, '46, and Pauper, Needs No Makeup.

(By Telegraph to The Tribune.)

Marshall, Mich., Dec. 24.—Russell J. Judd, ninety-seven years old, a member of the Yale class of '46, played the role of Santa Claus at the Calhoun County Poor House this evening. Not much of a costume was needed, his flowing white beard and benign countenance bearing a marked resemblance to the usual portrayal of Santa Claus. Judd is a son of Russell Judd, once dean of the Lane Theological Seminary. He was born in Cincinnati. Though feeble physically he is vigorous mentally, and keeps abreast of current events.

No New Year's dinner complete without Angostura Bitters. Delicious appetizer & tonic. —Adv.



DR. WILLIAM J. MORTON.

## GETS 'THE WOODCHOPPERS'

President Admired Painting—  
Christmas Gift from Wife.

A painting which President Woodrow Wilson has long admired will be one of his most prized Christmas gifts. The art work is a landscape, "The Woodchoppers," by H. Hohart Nichols, formerly of Washington and whose studio now is at Bronxville, N. Y.

The canvas has been on view in the Corcoran Gallery, in Washington, where the President had seen it and expressed his admiration for the work. With knowledge of this, Mrs. Wilson bought the picture and has made it a Christmas gift to her husband.

## TREE HITS AUTO; DEATH GRAZES TWO

Forest Giant Crushes Machine,  
While Man and Wife, on  
Front Seat, Escape.

Dr. J. H. Beattie and Mrs. Beattie left Hastings in their touring car shortly before 5 o'clock yesterday afternoon for their home in Dobbs Ferry. Dr. Beattie was at the wheel and Mrs. Beattie sat beside him in a front seat.

Their route was along Broadway. As they came to the estate of Carl Trube, which faces Broadway and lies midway between Hastings and Dobbs Ferry, a loust tree probably sixty-five feet high snapped at the roots and swung down upon the machine.

Dr. Beattie must have had a rabbit's foot in his pocket, for the tree landed across the rear seats, almost cutting the car in halves. Only the lighter branches struck Dr. and Mrs. Beattie, slightly scratching their faces.

The weight of the tree held the car firmly, while the wheels ground the roadway.

The shock was so severe that the Beatties were unable to speak for several minutes. They were seated in the car, overcome by fright, when Edward S. Perot, president of the National Conduit and Cable Company, whose car had been blocked by the long tree, climbed over it and came to them.

An automobile was called from Dobbs Ferry and it brought the Beatties home. Their trifling cuts were quickly dressed.

It being impossible for traffic to move while the tree remained where it was, policemen spent an hour chopping a clear way.

Undoubtedly the wind and rain of Tuesday weakened the tree at the roots.

## This Morning's News.

LOCAL.	Page.
Test Dr. Morton's Right to Practise.	1
Parcel Post Triumphs.	1
Girl in Frezzy, Chops Arm.	1
Auto Crushed by Tree.	1
Graft Trial Again Near Albany.	2
Mitchell Stands by Choice.	2
Death Shots on Christmas Eve.	3
Charities Begin Christmas Work.	4
Madison Square Celebration Begins.	5
Colonel Clinton H. Smith Dies.	5
Baby Girl Found in Hall.	5
Kearny Stops Christmas Raffles.	9
St. John's Chapel for Sale.	13
Flash Greeting to Far North.	13
Schmidt's Friends Raised \$15,000.	14
Kilme Warns Waldo in Film Case.	14
Zelazka Warns Waldo in Film Case.	14

FOREIGN.	Page.
83 Killed at Christmas Festival.	1
Wilson Greets Three States.	1
Glynns and Osborne Play Hide and Seek.	2
P. G. Dale Divorced in Reno.	2
Relatives to Aid Lawyer's Slave.	2
Turn Bull Ring Into a Battlefield.	2
Munsey Clinches Grip on U. S. Trust.	2
McAdoo Begins Picking Bank Cities.	2
Steel to Fight U. S. Suit.	4
Even U. S. Honor To Be Arbitrated.	4
Community Trees in Many Cities.	5
Missouri Mullets Lumber Trust.	13

MISCELLANEOUS.	Page.
Editorial.	6
Society.	7
Theatrical.	7
Obituary.	7
Musical.	7
Sports.	7
News for Women.	7
Financial and Markets.	10, 11 and 12
Army and Navy.	12
Real Estate.	12
Shipping.	12
Weather.	13

## PARCEL POST WINS SANTA'S APPLAUSE

Large Cities Join in Tribute  
to Uncle Sam's New  
Venture.

## 500 EXTRA MEN AT N. Y. OFFICE

Million Pounds of Christmas  
Gifts Leave City in Twenty-  
four Hours.

From almost every city of consequence throughout the country there came last night enthusiastic reports of the satisfactory service of the parcel post. In New York Postmaster Morgan estimated that the volume of parcel post matter handled by his army of clerks and carriers had doubled in a year. Yet he was able to report an utter lack of congestion. All mail matter, he said, was being delivered on time, thanks to his foresight in hiring countless express wagons, brewery trucks, moving vans and other assorted vehicles to handle the tremendous surplus of packages.

Although yesterday was the day before Christmas, the heaviest day for the local postoffice department was Tuesday. Tuesday, Mr. Morgan said, was the heaviest day ever experienced by any of Uncle Sam's postoffice forces. Considerably more than a million pounds of Christmas gifts left the city by its many railway and steamship lines in the twenty-four hours from midnight to midnight. Not quite so great a volume poured in from every quarter for distribution here.

"We have employed more than 250 extra wagons," said Mr. Morgan yesterday. "We have added more than 500 employees to the staff, not including the drivers of these wagons. In addition we have had our men work three or four hours overtime each day, a thing we could not do before under the old law. This year the men are paid for overtime and they make no objection. Under the old law we could not work the men more than eight hours a day, even if they wanted to work longer."

## Enormous Night Force.

"The new law permits us to put on an enormous night force, so that all the mail arriving at night is sorted and ready for fresh carriers to take out the first thing in the morning. Mail is being sent out at half-hour intervals. We have arranged to work all day Christmas, or until the postoffice is closed, even if far into the night, but we expect that parcels received this evening and even until noon to-morrow will be delivered before dinner time."

About noon yesterday the postmaster took a stroll through the corridors of the general postoffice and sighed with relief when he saw that the long lines of men, women and children anxious to dispatch their gifts had dwindled before each window to a mere handful of hurried and exhausted beings. This meant that the backbone of the rush had been broken and that from then on he and his man might relax a tiny bit. The incoming mails continued as heavy, if they did not increase in bulk, but then New Yorkers themselves had already sent most of those presents destined for relatives and friends out of town.

J. J. Leott, chief clerk in this city of the railway mail service, said yesterday that the Pennsylvania and Grand Central terminals had been handling a daily average during this week of 7,000 sacks of parcel post mail, each sack containing an average of twenty-five pieces of mail. He estimated from 1,200 to 1,500 as the average daily number of sacks handled each at the Erie and the Central Railroad of New Jersey terminals, 900 at the Lackawanna terminal, 800 at the Long Island City terminal and 200 on Staten Island.

## All Delivered To-day.

It was said at the postoffice last night that with the two deliveries this morning all the Christmas mail which the railroads had been able to get into the city would be distributed.

The experience of the local department was duplicated on a smaller scale in every part of the greater city and of the United States. For the most part the postmasters had been amply forewarned regarding the extra burden of mail to expect this Christmas, due to the enhanced popularity of the parcel post, and had prepared themselves for the emergency.

"The worst rush ever" is the way Postmaster Edmund W. Voorheis, of Brooklyn, yesterday described conditions in that office.

All mail collected in the borough was being sent away as fast as brought in, but the office was slightly behind in the matter of delivering mail from outside, and Mr. Voorheis feared that heavy mails from Manhattan late in the night or early in the morning might result in some congestion.

"The parcel post is working well," he told a Tribune reporter, "but it is making an enormous lot of work for us. We have seventy-four extra clerks on duty, all on that work, while the regular men are working sixteen hours a day. Receipts so far this month are \$80,000 greater than for the corresponding period of last year."

"Christmas Day we will have 150 extra wagons on, delivering stuff that will have come in. The carriers will make but one delivery, but they will have to take out all there is ready for delivery."

Continued on second page, third column.

## WILSON WHIRLING THROUGH SOUTH

President Gives Christmas  
Greetings to Carolinians  
and Georgians.

## HIS HEALTH BETTER THAN IN MANY WEEKS

Removal of Mental Strain Over  
Currency Bill Produces  
Beneficial Effect.

(By Telegraph to The Tribune.)

Atlanta, Ga., Dec. 24.—(On board President's special train).—Extending Christmas greetings to the crowds that gathered to greet him wherever his special train stopped, President Wilson was whirling through three states today, to Pass Christian, Miss., where he will spend the holidays. North Carolina, South Carolina and Georgia were traversed by the special bearing the President and his family.

The President went to the back platform at each stop, shaking hands with as many people as possible. He chatted freely with those who crowded about his car, but made no speeches.

A large crowd awaited the special at Salisbury, N. C., this morning, but the President did not leave his car until he reached Charlotte, where he shook hands with about five hundred persons.

"You are the greatest American living or dead!" exclaimed a man in the crowd.

"Thank you," smiled the President.

"Shake hands with an old Carolina woodchopper," said a tall, long haired man, wearing high boots bespattered with mud.

"Certainly," laughed Mr. Wilson, leaning over the car rail.

Many women brought their babies to see the President, and Mr. Wilson greeted them all.

"Merry Christmas," "A Happy vacation," frequently was called out.

The President retired for a nap after leaving Charlotte, and Miss Margaret Wilson greeted the throng at Greenville, shaking hands with the women and girls. At Seneca, Ga., the President was presented with a small bunch of violets by a Confederate veteran.

A short stop was made at Gainesville, Ga., the birthplace of Miss Margaret Wilson and Mrs. Sayre, the President's elder daughter.

The President and Mrs. Wilson stood on the car platform and pointed out the house to their daughters, the Misses Eleanor and Margaret.

"Where's 'Tom' Haney?" asked the President of the handful of persons who had gathered at the rear of the train.

"Here he is," said a voice, as the individual referred to, a somewhat aged but vigorous looking station master, appeared.

The President and the station master shook hands warmly. Haney has been station master for nearly fifty years, and remembers the family well.

"Who lives in the old house?" the President asked.

"Nobody," it was closed up," said Haney. "But how are you, Mr. President? We hear you have been ill."

"I'm quite well," replied the President, smilingly.

"Maybe you had better not stand out in the cold," cautioned some one in the crowd, and the President thanked him for his solicitude.

The engines were changed quickly and the train started, while the handful of spectators waved goodbye. The day's ride was a restful one. The President slept during the afternoon and did no work on his correspondence. In Atlanta during the stop he left the train with Dr. Grayson. This was the first time he had left the car since it started from the capital.

Dr. Grayson is much encouraged over the President's condition, saying that his health is better than in weeks, and that the relaxation from the strain attending his strenuous labors over the currency legislation has done much to improve the President's condition.

## ITALIAN AND MONEY GONE

Police Seek Man Accused of  
Fraud—May Have Sailed.

Armed with a warrant charging the obtaining of money under false pretences, the police are looking for Vincenzo Latterulo, who left his office, at No. 82 Beaver street, last Friday and is supposed to have sailed after cashing a check for \$17,000, which he changed into Italian money.

In just what way Latterulo obtained the money that provokes the charge is not admitted by the persons interested in capturing him. He conducted business under the name of the Algonquin Leather Company and lived on Staten Island. His "office" was a desk in the office of H. Amazaga & Co., Importers.

The police have learned that a few days before he disappeared he cancelled a reservation he had made for Havre on a French Line steamer, booking under the name A. Cruze, which was not an inappropriate cognomen for an intended voyager to assume.

T. Seton Jevons, of No. 40 Wall street, a lawyer, said yesterday he was not willing to discuss the case until some trace of the fugitive had been gained.

"I cannot even give you now the amount involved," he said, "for we are not certain ourselves. We are devoting all of our time to the chase, but have not received any encouraging news so far."

## YOU CAN USE THOSE GIFT RUBBERS TO-DAY.

This day, as they say at the armory, is Christmas, and this story, as you will say yourself, will give you no idea of what the weather will be, for it is based on nothing more substantial than the weather forecaster's predictions.

Taking that as an excuse to ramble on, the morning and early afternoon will be cloudy, and rain may finish up the merry day. The forecaster sincerely hopes that it won't rain, but it is doubtful if his desires will carry much influence.

On Friday, he remarks cheerfully, we may have snow. He will not venture to say how heavy the storm may be.

He stops there. He refuses to guess beyond Friday.

## GIRL CHOPS ARM TO DIE FOR LOVE

Victim of Odd Mania Inflicts  
Twenty-six Wounds on Her-  
self with Axe.

(From The Tribune Correspondent.)

Hempstead, Long Island, Dec. 24.—Lying on the floor in a faint, with her left arm hacked until the flesh was cut to ribbons, Miss Jennie Haff, eighteen years old, was found in the woodshed at the rear of her home in Grove street this afternoon. She was taken to the Nassau Hospital, where it was said she will probably die from the loss of blood.

A mania seized the girl while she was alone in the house, it is believed, and going to the woodshed she attempted to end her life by severing the arteries in her arm with an axe. She apparently had every reason to be happy at home, and only a few days ago her engagement was announced to Howard Valentine, an employee in the Brooklyn postoffice.

It was when Mrs. Haff, the mother, returned from a shopping tour to-day that she discovered her wounded daughter. The girl moaned deliciously that she wanted to die because she was not worthy of her suitor.

Going to the woodshed, the girl placed her left arm on a chopping block and struck it repeatedly with the keen axe. When found her arm was broken in two places, while there were twenty-six gashes inflicted. Physicians last night expressed wonder that Miss Haff was able to inflict so many blows. It will be necessary to amputate the arm if the girl recovers sufficient strength to undergo the operation.

## COUCH'S FRIEND A SUICIDE

Quits Work on Christmas Tree  
to Shoot Himself.

(By Telegraph to The Tribune.)

Monticello, N. Y., Dec. 24.—Stanley B. Smith shot and killed himself to-night with an old-fashioned pistol about two feet long. He was for several years the leading jeweller of this village, but had not been in business for five years.

Friends think that the tragic death of Melvin H. Couch may have influenced his act. He was a close friend of Couch, and the surmise is that the disclosure of the lawyer's double life had preyed upon his mind, as he talked continually about it.

Smith left the members of his family preparing the Christmas tree, a task in which he had been assisting, and went upstairs and shot himself.

The gun with which Smith killed himself was presented to him some years ago by Couch and was a relic of the trial of "Jack" Allen, the last man hanged in Sullivan County and whom Couch was instrumental in convicting while he was District Attorney.

## LOUIS SOCKALEXIS DEAD

Penobscot Indian Famous as  
Ball Player and Athlete

Bangor, Me., Dec. 24.—Louis Sockalexis, a Penobscot Indian who won fame as a ball player, dropped dead from heart disease while engaged in a logging operation in the town of Burlington to-day. His body was removed to his home in Old Town to-night.

## ASCH FIRE VICTIMS VALUED AT \$75 EACH

Owner of Triangle Waist Factory  
Settles Nine Suits on  
That Basis.

By paying \$75 for each, Joseph J. Asch, who owned the building bearing his name when it was destroyed by fire on March 25, 1911, in which about 140 lives were lost, has been relieved of further liability for nine of those deaths for which the administrators of the victims have brought suit. Permission to compromise for this amount was granted by Surrogate Fowler yesterday on the application of the administrators.

The girls killed in the fire were employees of the Triangle Waist Company. Suits were filed also against Max Blanck and Isaac Harris, constituting the Triangle Company. These suits are pending.

The offer of a \$75 compromise was made by the Amsterdam Casualty Company, in which Asch held a policy. Asch denied all liability, but consented to the settlement that the casualty company might be relieved of the necessity, as required under the state insurance laws, of maintaining a reserve against the claims made against Asch.

## 83 KILLED IN PANIC AT CHRISTMAS FETE

Victims of False Alarm of Fire Given by  
Unknown Man at Calumet, Mich.,  
Mostly Children of Miners.

## STAIRWAYS BLOCKED BY CORPSES

Leaders in the Wild Rush for Safety Suffocated by the  
Weight of Those Following Them—Few  
Think to Use Fire Escapes.

Calumet, Mich., Dec. 24.—At least eighty-three persons, mostly children, were killed to-night at a Christmas celebration of copper mine strikers in an Italian hall because of a needless panic caused by a false alarm of fire.

While several hundred miners and their wives looked on, the children pressed eagerly toward the stage to receive Christmas presents. Just then a man put his head through the door of the hall and yelled "Fire!"

The cry was taken up by those in the hall. Every one started for the doors. The weaker were thrown to the floor and those behind tried to climb over those ahead of them.

## Panic Follows False Alarm.

The stairway and other avenues of egress were blocked, so that those inside could not get out and those without could not get in to aid the panic stricken crowd in the hall. It was some time before the panic subsided.

The alarm was spread outside the hall by a few persons who had been near the door and had escaped unhurt. A crowd soon assembled and the work of clearing the hall was begun.

The principal exit was a narrow stairway at the back of the hall. When this had been cleared of the bodies that filled it to the top and a quick accounting had been made it was found that seventy-four corpses had been piled up beside the hall building. It is thought that a dozen others were carried away by friends.

The dead that were piled up beside the hall included thirty-seven girls, nineteen boys, thirteen women and five men. Excited men and women stood about the building, some dazed by the sudden change from holiday festivities to tragedy, others calling hysterically for a missing child, and a few even threatening violence to the rescuers for keeping them back from the long row of bodies.

## Only Three in Hospitals.

There was not much work for the many doctors who hurried to the scene as soon as the alarm was spread, for those who were not killed in the first rush were held upright and safe by the very force of the onrush toward the exit. Only three injured persons were taken to hospitals, and a few went home with the assistance of friends.

For many days the children of the copper mine strikers had waited expectantly for the Christmas tree exercises that had been arranged by the Women's Auxiliary of the Western Federation of Miners. The entertainment was set for the early evening, and the hall, which is on the second floor, was soon filled to its limit.

The children selected to recite Christmas selections and sing carols had finished their part of the programme, and the man selected to play the part of Santa Claus had appeared to distribute the presents that were piled around the large illuminated tree.

The children were instructed to march up the aisles to the tree, so that the presents could be handed to them. The aisles were filled with the boys and girls when a large, bearded man thrust his head in at the door of the main hallway and shouted "Fire!"

## Woman's Efforts Useless.

Mrs. Caesar, who was near the door, realized the import of the act, and seized the man by the shoulders and tried to counteract the alarm. It was useless. The man wrested himself from her grasp and ran away. The cry of "Fire!" was repeated throughout the room.

The word was shouted in several languages as parents rose and rushed forward to get their children. The lives were crushed out in almost a twinkling. Then the physical impossibility of further movement brought the panicky persons to their senses. It was recalled too late that there was no fire, but most of those in the hall could not get out of the jam that they had caused.

Police and firemen hurried to the building, to find the hall congested. Several officers climbed the fire escapes and entered by the windows. In a short time the uninjured and the faint had been pulled from the tangle of human beings and placed in the front of the hall.

## Corpses Set on Chairs.

Other men began to pull the bodies of the dead and helpless from the stair-

way and lay them in a row beside the building. This disposition of the crumpled bodies was found inadvisable because of the hysteria it caused among the spectators, and the corpses were carried back into the hall as soon as it was emptied of the frightened persons. All the chairs were lined with bodies and other corpses had to be placed in the kitchen of the hall and beneath the stage.

Inside of an hour nearly every one in Calumet was as near the scene as it was possible to get. The police formed a cordon about the place and kept back the crowd. After much effort a lane was opened through the crowd and the bodies of the children were carried through ranks of moaning and wailing parents to Red Jacket Village Hall, which was made into a morgue. It was many hours before all the bodies were identified.

During the confusion several bodies of children were wrongly identified by mothers and taken away, only to be returned later by the parents, who had found their own offspring safe. In other cases parents ran about for some time uncertain whether their children were dead or alive. Many mothers fainted, while fathers cursed all those who interfered with their mad search for lost girls and boys.

For hours frantic women ran through the streets calling for their little ones. Efforts were made to calm the frantic women, and many were taken into homes that had not been bereaved, so that they might have proper attention. In this way sometimes husbands and wives were separated.

## Over 300 Children in the Hall.

Of the 700 persons in the hall more than three-fourths were children, many of them having gone without their parents. These fathers and mothers soon rushed to the scene and added to the confusion. They did not understand what had taken place and hindered the rescuers by insisting on information as to what was the matter.

There was a fire escape at the rear of the building, but only those who were very near it could make any use of it until after the fatal rush was over. Probably not more than a hundred persons escaped the first rush by way of this fire escape. About a score more jumped from the windows near which they sat. As it was not many feet from the ground, the jump did not cause injury.

The Italian hall was built about five years ago and was well provided for emergencies, it was thought. The entrance was a hallway about ten feet deep. A stairway about eight feet wide led up from this vestibule to a small landing about eight by ten feet. The main door of the hall opened on this landing. There is a small cloak room about ten feet square to one side of the main door.

The loss of life was heavy at the small door of this room. The rush apparently turned many against the door of this room and crushed them to death within the doorway.

## Stairway Packed with Dead.

The greatest number of dead in any one place, however, was at the bottom of the stairs. Those who reached the stairs first were evidently hurled to the bottom by those behind, and in this fashion the stairway was filled to the ceiling.

That death in most instances was due to suffocation under the weight of those who fell last was indicated by the fact that few of the corpses bore marks of injuries. Bodies were crumpled and broken,